

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01028 250702Z

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /030 W

-----250703Z 104453 /17

R 221428Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2514

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1028

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, GW, IR, CZ

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING: NEW FRG AMBASSADOR TO IRAN,
DR. GERHARD RITZEL

REF BONN A-90 OF MARCH 23, 1977

1. TENURE IN PRAGUE: DR. GERHARD RITZEL'S TENURE AS FRG AMBASSADOR TO PRGUE, BEGINNING IN APRIL, 1974, WAS MARKED BY A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. BETWEEN 1974 AND THE PRESENT, THE WEST GERMANS SETTLED THEIR LONG-STANDING DISPUTE OVER WORLD WAR II CLAIMS AND IN EFFECT NORMALIZED THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME. THEY ALSO EFFECTED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE REUNIFICATION OF DIVIDED FAMILIES. BOTH SUCCESSES WERE IN A SENSE FRUITS OF OSTPOLITIK, WITH WHICH DR. RITZEL HAS BEEN INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED AS A KEY AIDE TO FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT; TO WHAT EXTENT HIS POLITICAL CLOUT IN BONN MAY HAVE HELPED, WE ARE UNABLE TO SAY. DURING THE PAST YEAR, HOWEVER, VARIOUS EVENTS OVER WHICH RITZEL HAS HAD NO CONTROL HAVE PUT STRAINS ON THE RELATIONSHIP.

2. OUR OBSERVATION IS THAT RITZEL HAS DIRECTED THE FRG EMBASSY ABLY AND COMMANDS THE FULL RESPECT OF HIS LARGE STAFF.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01028 250702Z

3. PERSONAL EVALUATION: THE FRG EMBASSY IN PRAGUE HAS EXCELLENT CONTACTS HERE AND AMBASSADOR RITZEL HAS PROVED A GENERALLY PERCEPTIVE OBSERVER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SCENE, ALTHOUGH HE HAS OCCASIONALLY SHOWN A TENDENCY TO TAKE A SOMEWHAT POLLYANAISH VIEW OF EVENTS. WE HAVE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS PROFOUND REGRET OVER GERMAN EXCESSES DURING THE NAZI ERA HAS LED HIM TO REACT TO

TOTALITARIAN MEASURES IN PRAGUE WITH EXTRAORDINARY FLEXIBILITY. WE ALSO HAVE FELT THAT HE OFTEN BASES HIS JUDGEMENT OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS ON INTUITIVE, SUBJECTIVE FEELINGS RATHER THAN A DETAILED,

OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EVENTS. AMBASSADOR RITZEL HAS BEEN UNFAILINGLY CORDIAL TO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS OF ALL RANKS. HE HAS SHARED INFORMATION WITH AMBASSADOR BYRNE WITH WHOM HE SERVED IN OSLO AND, BEFORE THAT, WITH THE AMERICAN CHARGE, WHO TERMED HIM HIS "MOST ESSENTIAL CONTACT" AND "ONE OF MY FAVORITE FRIENDS HERE." HOW AMBASSADOR RITZEL, WHO CAN ON OCCASION HOLD FORTH AT LENGTH AND WITH A SOMEWHAT BOASTFUL AIR, WILL FARE AMONG THE PERSIANS, WE CANNOT PREDICT WITH CERTAINTY BUT WE IMAGINE HE WILL DO VERY WELL. HOWEVER, HE IS UNHAPPY WITH THE ASSIGNMENT, ALLEGING LACK OF AREA EXPERTISE AND PHILOSOPHICAL DISTANCE FROM THE SHA AND HIS GOVERNMENT. HIS SECOND WIFE, URSULA, CONSIDERABLY YOUNGER THAN THE AMBASSADOR, IS A VERY ATTRACTIVE AND IMPRESSIVE WOMAN. THEY HAVE TWO YOUNG CHILDREN.
BYRNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE01028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770143-0216
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770429/aaaaaygz.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: de198ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN A-90
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2721324
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING: NEW FRG AMBASSADOR TO IRAN, DR. GERHARD RITZEL
TAGS: PINR, PFOR, PDIP, GE, IR, CZ, (RITZEL, GERHARD)
To: STATE TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/de198ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009